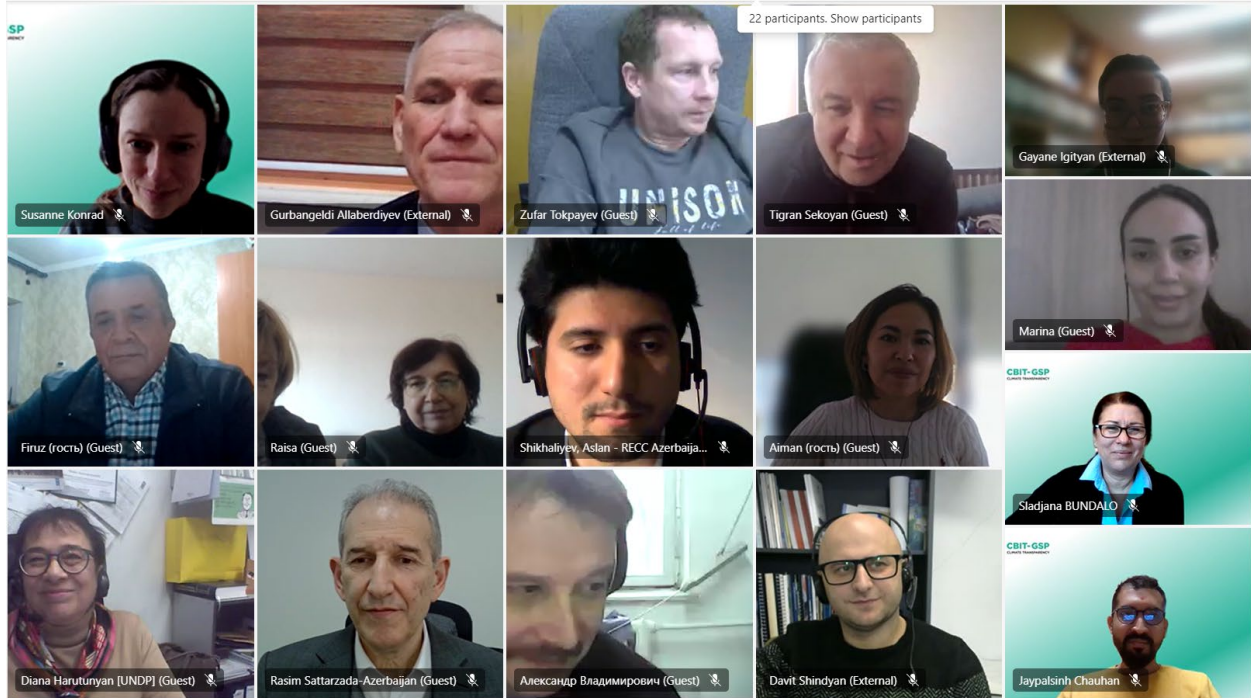


# Annual Network Meeting for the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus: achievements and plans for 2024

-- Online Meeting --

Time: 14:00 – 16:00 (Tashkent) | Date: December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 | Format: online



## Summary Report

## Background

In 2023, the CBIT-GSP Regional Network for Central Asia and the Caucasus enjoyed numerous events on capacity building for transparency, including regional and country-based training, learning sessions, webinars and exchange meetings. With its 2023 annual work plan coming to the end, it is high time to learn about key results and achievements, discuss the effectiveness of the activities, how they have helped the countries to refine their reporting process under the Paris Agreement, and what lessons the countries have learned from the support provided by CBIT-GSP and in collaboration with other partner organizations. It is also important to plan future activities, which will be implemented in 2024, and discuss the areas of support, which are based on the current needs of the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus.

The year of 2024 is quite important for the development of the first BTRs and the countries step into the active phase of reporting on their GHG Inventory, NDC Tracking, Mitigation and Adaptation Measures, Support Needed and Received, etc. The CBIT-GSP intends to support the countries in this important process by capacitating the national experts on key reporting areas of BTR, reviewing the GHG Inventories and providing a platform for sharing best practices and lessons learned on ETF.

## Objective

The main objective of the meeting was to **present key results**, which have been achieved by the **CBIT-GSP in 2023** particularly for the regional network of **Central Asia and the Caucasus**, and discuss the perspective **plans of CBIT-GSP support for 2024**.

It is expected that the network members will exchange on their *lessons learned from the CBIT-GSP support, echo on its effectiveness or improvement*, as well as will share their *views on support, which will be further required for 2024*.

## Target Audience and Language

The meeting brought together **30 participants** from all participating countries of the regional network of Central Asia and the Caucasus (except Kyrgyzstan). Out of the total number **11** were represented by **male experts** and **17** were **female participants**. The participants were represented by the Coordinators of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports/ Biennial Transparency Reports, senior experts from the national agencies dealing with climate policy and MRV/ETF and experts dealing with greenhouse gas inventory, adaptation and impacts, climate finance and NDC tracking. Lead transparency partners in the face of FAO, CBIT-GSP, CAREC, UNDP and UNEP were also present.

The meeting was held **in Russian** and lasted for **2 hours**.

## Key messages:

- The **status of the first BTR** in the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus is as follows:
  - o One country has already started the project; one country is about to start within a month-two; one country mentioned that the project document is submitted with the rest four countries specifying that there are still negotiations going on development of the BTR project documents. In fact, out of seven network countries, only **Armenia has started the project**, with **Uzbekistan** following it (plans to start the project in a 1-2 month period with the rest of the countries developing their PIP/project documents)
- The main challenges are associated with **institutional and organizational challenges and issues**. However, the countries are quite positive and assure that they will in any case submit their first BTRs by December 2024 with a few of them hesitating with a response.
- Most of the participants **attended the events** (webinars, workshops, in-room and virtual webinars) on transparency, which were organized by CBIT-GSP for Central Asia and the Caucasus in 2023. The members of the network mentioned that they have used or partially used the knowledge and skills received during the CBIT-GSP events in their work. This is particularly visible for refining the national GHG Inventory within NCs/BURs and drafting PIP for the first BTR.
- The participants have **highlighted the following positive sides** of the CBIT-GSP support:
  - o Rapidness in responding to the queries and provision of consultancy support
  - o Opportunity to share experience and best practices among other countries both within the regional network and outside (e.g. Eurasian)
  - o High quality of the resource people in delivering the trainings (e.g. LEAP, NDC tracking)
  - o Ability to apply the knowledge and skills in practice
- The areas of **CBIT-GSP support improvement** were highlighted as follows:
  - o Think about the mechanism or tools of operative/rapid provision of responses on transparency queries
  - o Continue to support countries of the regional network on their first BTR development
  - o Maintain the cooperation of the regional network (and intra-regional cooperation with other networks) and continue the work in Russian to the extent possible
  - o Stand ready for ad-hoc queries on transparency and climate reporting under BTR
  - o Think about the areas of support which can be provided to the civil society organizations (CSOs) especially in their potential efforts in reviewing the climate reports and provision of a third-party observation
- The following **areas of support were prioritized** by the members of the regional network of **Central Asia and the Caucasus for 2024**:
  - o GHG Inventory and NDC tracking – especially within the development of the first BTR
  - o LEAP and GACMO Trainings
  - o **Filling in the CTFs for NDC tracking**
  - o Adaptation Reporting and determining the indicators for tracking the progress
  - o Mitigation indicators and NDC tracking
  - o Assessment of the policy impact for mitigation and selection of mitigation measures based on the cost-benefit analysis

- The participants are well aware about **the Climate Transparency Platform** and regularly review the news threads and planned/completed events. Most of them are registered users and some of them are editors. Most of the participants, however, claim that the platform is **moderately useful** with just a few people evaluating it as highly useful.
- The proposed work plan with regional/global activities and in-country support was accepted by the participants of the meeting with some minor comments:
  - o Include Armenia's intention for review of the GHG Inventory in 2024 and pursue a NDC tracking exercise via mentor/mutual learning programme approach
  - o Consider Kazakhstan's interest in pursuing the NDC tracking activities and filling in the CTFs (also within the mutual learning programme approach)
  - o The rest of the countries – Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan confirmed their interest in starting with BTR roadmap development